American democracy depends upon informed voters. Sinclair Broadcasting plans to misrepresent their political opinion as fact by forcing their stations to misrepresent a biased, documentary against Sen John Kerry as factual news a few days before the next Presidential election. They hope to misinform many voters, who will then cast votes that do not represent their own actual preferences. If this happens, it will subvert the American democratic process.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Sinclair's wide presence gives its biases credibility through repetition. Because of companies like Sinclair, we must insist on more variety of opinion among our news sources, not less.

In this election year, our nation is polarized again. Also, the world will be watching us closely this year. Will America be a good example to other countries? Will we trust our own election results? If Sinclair proceeds with its planned misrepresentation, the answers to both questions are more likely to be "no."

It's time for our government, through

the FCC, to send media companies two strong messages: they must meet common-sense standards of fairness and accuracy when reporting the news, and they may not do what Sinclair plans to do.